



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

West Virginia Field Office
694 Beverley Pike
Elkins, West Virginia 26241

August 15, 2005



Mr. Ronald A. Wigal
Acting Environmental Specialist
Natural Resources Conservation Service
75 High Street, Room 301
Morgantown, West Virginia 26505

Re: Lost Creek Watershed Project, Dam Site 16, Hardy County, West Virginia

Dear Mr. Wigal:

This responds to your information request of 15 July 2005 regarding the potential impacts of a proposed project on wetlands and federally listed endangered and threatened species and species of concern. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is proposing a 47 acre, flood protection/water supply reservoir on Lower Cove Run near Lost City in Hardy County, West Virginia. It is anticipated that 10 acres of forest land will be disturbed. These comments are provided pursuant to the Endangered Species Act (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

No federally listed endangered and threatened species are expected to be impacted by the project. Therefore, no biological assessment or further section 7 consultation under the Endangered Species Act is required with the Fish and Wildlife Service. Should project plans change, or if additional information on listed and proposed species becomes available, this determination may be reconsidered.

Definitive determinations of the presence of waters of the United States, including wetlands, in the project area and the need for permits, if any, are made by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. They may be contacted at: Pittsburgh District, Regulatory Branch, William S. Moorhead Federal Building, 1000 Liberty Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15222-4188, telephone (412)395-7152.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact this office at (304) 636-6586, or at the letterhead address.

Sincerely,

Thomas R. Chapman
Field Supervisor